Amendment dated April 8, 2008 In Response to Office Action of January 9, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the

application.

Claims 1 - 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): An absorbent article comprising:

a main body including a liquid-pervious top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent core

sandwiched between said top sheet and said back sheet;

a skin-protective ingredient containing layer on one surface of said top sheet such that a

skin-protective ingredient is released from said one surface of said top sheet and transferred to skin

of a wearer to form an oily film on the skin of the wearer, said skin-protective ingredient containing

layer being in a liquified state at 35°C or higher; and

a support layer substantially entirely and directly coating said skin-protective ingredient

containing layer for retaining said skin-protective ingredient on said one surface of said top sheet

and isolating said skin-protective ingredient containing layer from the skin of the wearer, said

support layer being formed of polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight of from 700 to $1{,}000$

and having a melting point from 35°C to 40°C,

wherein said skin-protective ingredient containing layer is formed of at least one compound

selected from the group consisting of liquid polyisoprene, squalane, pristane, ozocerite, ceresine,

microcrystalline wax, polyethylene powder, liquid paraffin, petroleum jelly and paraffin, and

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wherein said support layer has a melting point from 35°C to 40°C.

Claims 9, 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8, further

including:

at least one of a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and leg cuff for preventing

leakage through an area around a wearer's thighs, and the at least one of a leakage-preventive cuff

and leg cuff are located between said top sheet and said skin-protective ingredient containing layer

and said support layer.

Claims 12-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (previously presented): The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8, wherein said

skin-protective ingredient containing layer and said support layer are provided in regions of the

absorbent article that are fitted to the thighs of the wearer.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8, wherein said skin-

protective ingredient containing layer and said support layer are provided in regions of the

absorbent article that are fitted to one or more of the back, the buttocks or the abdominal region of

the wearer.